

APPLICANTS: AVNI, Dror et al.
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CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Manning, U.S. Patent No. 6,188,613 (hereinafter the "Manning reference"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

As is well established, in order to successfully assert a prima facie case of anticipation, the Examiner must provide a single prior art document that includes every element and limitation of the claim or claims being rejected.

Regarding claims 1-14, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's statement that "Figures 1 and 2 of Manning are directed to a method for programming a memory array using programming pulses applied to either the drain or gate of one or more memory cells, the method comprising: adapting the duration or the amplitude of said programming pulses as a function of the difference between a present state of the one or more memory cells and a target state of the one or more memory cells (abstract), wherein the amplitude or duration of the programming are correlated to the difference between a present state of the one or more memory cells and a target state of the one or more cells."

The Manning reference discloses "...a query cell (e.g., another flash cell) that stores a value (e.g., a charge) representative of a characteristic rate of change in the state of the memory cell." (Col. 3, lines 24-27 of the Manning reference, emphasis added). According to the Manning reference "when the state of the memory cell is to be changed...querying circuitry receives the value stored in the query cell..." (Col. 3, lines 27-30). Therefore, every time that a cell is erased or programmed, the query cell is queried.

The Manning reference does not teach or suggest all elements in claims 1-14. For example, the Manning reference fails to teach or suggest "...adapting the duration or the amplitude of said programming pulses as a function of the difference between a present state of the one or more memory cells and a target state of the one or more memory cells, wherein the amplitude or duration of the programming pulses are correlated to the difference between a present state of the one or more memory cells and a target state of the one or more memory cells." (claim 1 of the present invention, emphasis added). The Manning reference therefore

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fails to disclose all elements of claims 1-14 and cannot anticipate claims 1-14. The Office Action has therefore failed to establish a prima facie showing of anticipation and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

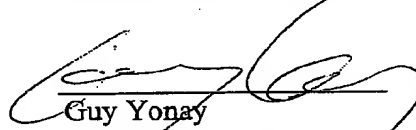
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-14.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,


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